GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
PRODUCTION OF REGIONAL FILMS
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regional films produced during 1999 as compared to the films produced during the last two years, language-wise;

(b) the details of special incentives and facilities provided by the State/ Union Government for encouraging production of quality regional films in the country in general and Maharashtra in particular, during the last three years;

(c) the details of major problems being faced by regional films; and

(d) the details of fresh initiatives taken/under consideration for promotion and development of regional films?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE (DEPARTMENT OF DISNVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 240 REGARDING `PRODUCTION OF REGIONAL FILMS` FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2000

The number of feature films certified by the Central Board of FilmCertification (CBFC) certified for public exhibition in 1999, was 764 as compared to 697 films in 1998 and 693 in 1997. The language-wise break up of certified films for the years 1997,1998 &1999 is given in Annexure. The increasing trend of figures for production of films for manyof the regional languages shows a situation of growth.

Many State Governments encourage making of films in respectiveregional languages and they officer facilities like exemption or reduction of entertainment tax, subsides for production of films and compulsory exhibition of regional films in cinema theatres for a minimum specified number of weeks every year.

Government of Maharashtra offers the following incentives to producers of Marathi films:

i) Rs. 15 lakhs grant-in-aid is provided to a film producer for production of a Marathi film;
ii) 50% concession is given on film shootings if the film is shot in Goregaon Film City and Kolhapur Film City.
iii) Annual Award is given for Marathi films of thematic and aesthetic excellence. Producer, Director and Members of crafts are also given awards.
iv) Marathi films are totally exempted from payment of entertainment tax.
v) International and national award winning Marathi films are given a special prize of Rs. 1 lakh.
vi) Theatre owners are expected to reserve at least four weeks for Marathi films in a year.

Non-availability of adequate exhibition outlets and increasing cost of production are perceived as main obstacles to the growth of regional cinema.

The National Film Development Corporation promotes production of regional cinema and has produced 26 regional languages in the last three years. Regional film are telecast by the National Networkand Regional Kendras of Doordarshan on a weekly basis and by the regional satellite channels on a daily basis. In view of the employment generation and income generation potential of the entertainment industry including film industry, the Government has been consistently supportive. The Government has been organizing International Film Festivals which provide important exposure to regional films also.The National Film Awards every year prominently include film in regional languages.

In the budget proposals presented to the Parliament for the year 2000-2001, the following significant benefits have been proposed.

1. The benefit of the Section 80HHF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extend to individuals/proprietors engaged in the export of entertainment software.

2. Basic customs duty on cinematograph cameras an other related equipment has been reduced from 40% to 25%.

3. Basic customs duty on color positive films in jumbo rolls and colour negative films in rolls of certain sizes has been reduced from 15% to 5%. Countervailing duty on these items has also been abolished.

4. The limit for submission of statements by film producers under Section 285 B of the Income Tax Act has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 w.e.f1.4.2001.

ANNEXURE

LANGUAGE WISE BREAK-UP OF FILMS CERTIFIED FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION IN THE LAST THREE YEARS BY CBFC.

Language	1997	1998	1999
Hindi	117	153	166
Telugu	151	124	132
Tamil	128	133	153
Malayalam	92	69	65
Kannada	81	72	87
Marathi	9	18	24
Punjabi	14	11	
Nepali	2	4	
Gujarati	10	15	27
Bengali	49	48	51
Bhojpuri	2	6	2
Rajasthani	2	4	
Assamese	5	5	7
English	7	5	6
Manipuri		2	
Oriya	1	19	15
Urdu	1		
Garhwali	1	1	1
Tea-Tribe	1		
Persian			1
Kodava		1	
Tulu		2	
Kashmiri			1
French		1	
Maithili			1
Hindustani		1	
Chotanagpuri			1
Haryanvi		1	
Total	697	693	764